

From: Wes Price
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The current proposed settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case is woefully inadequate - most of the problems which the settlements purports to address have already been resolved by Microsoft's abuse of its monopolistic influence on the software industry, and it ignores (and may even foster) new problems which have sprung up in their place. As one example, the exclusionary license which is built in to Microsoft's Enterprise Agreement subscription plan will go a long way towards reducing the ability of anyone to compete with Microsoft, making it impossible for anyone to break ranks without costing their company hundreds of thousands of dollars in "discounts" - once a company subscribes, Microsoft will own their future.

The lack of any penalty for what even the courts agreed was substantial, intentional anticompetitive behavior on Microsoft's part, coupled with the lack of any structural remedy which would inhibit Microsoft from engaging in similar behavior in the future, renders this "solution" practically worthless - Microsoft will continue to crowd out products which are technologically superior for exactly as long as it is allowed full, unfettered access to a computer's operating system *and* web browser *and* office application suite.

I am politically conservative, but I cannot support this administration's disgraceful attempt to conciliate the Microsoft machine at my expense - the administration's gall in claiming that the proposed solution will do anything substantive to change or limit Microsoft's de facto monopoly is only exceeded by Microsoft's gall in continuing to stamp out innovation and competition while on trial for those selfsame actions.

Wes Price